

## REMARKS

### CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS

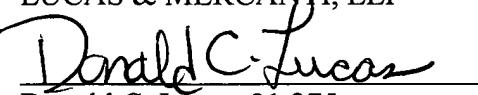
Claims 1-8 are pending in this case.

Claim 7 has been amended herein to place it into conventional U.S. format, by deleting the reference to claim 6 and adding the limitation of claim 6 to claim 7. Thus, amended claim 7 is of the same scope as originally filed.

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

It will be noted that in the DESR, the references have each been characterized using standard alpha characters ie "Y" means particularly relevant and "A" means general background. The claims to which the documents are applied are also listed i.e. 1-8.

Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Encl: ISR; PTO/SB/08A; Copies of cited references  
German patent Office Search Report (DESR);  
Copies of the Non-US Patent Office Publication  
and Return receipt postcard

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